

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 INSE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 IGA-01 /021 W

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P R 042135Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SESTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8994

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, US, CB, CO

SUBJECT: PAROLE OF CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS

REF: STATE 121541, STATE 111758, BOGOTA 4743,
BOGOTA 4405

1. AMBASSADOR VUTTHI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY STAFF HAVE EXPLORED ALL FEASIBLE RESETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FROM BOGOTA.
2. THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES, WHILE WILLING TO ALLOW THE CAMBODIANS ALL TIME NECESSARY FOR ARRANGING RESETTLEMENT, HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THIS EMBASSY THAT THE GOC DOES NOT REGARD AS FEASIBLE THE RESETTLEMENT IN COLOMBIA OF THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY STAFF.
3. DURING A JUNE 3 CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, A FONMINOFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT COLOMBIA HAD NOT WISHED TO HAVE A CAMBODIAN EMBASSY OPENED IN BOGOTA BUT HAD ALLOWED IT IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE U.S. THE SAME OFFICIAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO BE SELF SUPPORTING IN COLOMBIA. HE SAID THAT THE GOC DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO STAY IN COLOMBIA AND AGAIN URGED THAT THE CAMBODIAN BE ALLOWED TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES.

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HIS REMARKS, IN THIS CONTEXT, CONSTITUTE A DE FACTO

REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE CAMBODIANS TO SETTLE HERE.

4. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE URRUTIA HAS ALSO TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE REGARDS PAROLE INTO THE U.S. AS THE ONLY PRACTICAL COURSE FOR THE CAMBODIANS, WITH A VIEW EITHER TO RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S. OR TO ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF RESETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE HERE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS STAFF ARE NOW REASONABLY SOLVENT DUE TO UNBLOCKING OF BANK ACCOUNTS AND THE VALUE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY (AUTOMOBILES ETC). SINCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES HERE ARE NIL, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS ADVISABLE FOR THEM TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

6. AMBASSADOR VUTTHI AND HIS STAFF AS NOTED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE, HAVE FULFILLED THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF STATE 121541. THE EMBASSY WILL ACCORDINGLY BEGIN ON JUNE 9 SUBSEQUENT TO THE LOCAL HOLIDAY IN COLOMBIA TO IMPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS (PARA 3, STATE 121541) SENT ON MAY 23.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAROLE, REFUGEES, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA05117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750196-1025
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaacuav.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITFE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 121541, 75 STATE 111758, 75 BOGOTA 4743
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAROLE OF CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS
TAGS: SREF, US, CB, CO, (VUTTHI)
To: ITF
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006